

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	Production of Synthetic Rubber Products for the KVP and the Soviet Air Force by VEB Leipziger Gummiwarenfabriken	DATE DISTR.	12 October 1955	25X1
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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Antigas Clothing

- Two types of antigas suits are in current production at VEB Leipziger Gummiwarenfabriken, a heavy type (the SL or Schwere Lastanzug) and a lighter type (LL or Leichte Lastanzug).
- It has been officially stated that these suits are to be used by personnel engaged in the clearing of CW dumps in the Dessau area set up during the last war, the presence of which is said to endanger the water supplies of the area.
- Planned production figures for these suits for 1955 are as follows:
SL - 400
LL - 4000

In fact, by the end of July 1955, just over 1,800 LL had been produced this year. These are regarded as of higher priority than the SL.
- The SL, which is made of pure rubber, is extremely heavy. It is impossible to do any more than the lightest work while wearing one.
- The LL, which weighs 4 kilos, is made of a solution which is sprayed onto a base of artificial silk (see Appendix for formula). It is designed to be worn for not more than three or four hours, after which time its protective properties diminish. The suit, which is worn with boots, gloves, and a normal respirator, is in two parts: trousers, which come up to the armpits of the wearer, and a hood which covers head, shoulders and arms. The hood fits tightly around a normal respirator facepiece.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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Production of Equipment for the Soviet Air Force (SAF)

6. VEB Leipziger Gummiwarenfabriken is working on a consignment of 15 so-called Schlauchheber (literally, hose siphon).²
7. This order is officially stated to have been placed by the SAF, which is said to be interested in large-scale production after the equipment has been tested .
8. The Schlauchheber are entirely of rubber and are designed to be inflated by compressed air. They are cylindrical in shape and are being made in three batches of five each, in the following approximate dimensions:

Diameter - 4 m. Height 2 m.

" - 4 m. " 1.60 m.

" - 4 m. " 1.20 m.

The first consignment of 15 is scheduled for delivery by 31 August 1955.

1. Comment: The planned output seems to be disproportionately high for the function for which the suits are ostensibly being produced.
2. Comment: the Schlauchheber are for use either in aircraft maintenance or for salvage operations.

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Appendix

Formula for production of 55 kg. of the rubber compound from which the LL suits are made:

Oppanol ¹ B 150-200	27.5
Gelatine	10.0
Carbon black P.1250 (inaktives Russ)	4.0
"Smoke Sheets"	10.0
Graphite	2.5
Zinc white	0.540
Sulfur	0.350
Vulkazit Merkapto	0.100
Vulkazit P extra N	0.010
	<u>55</u> kg.

1. Comment: German-English Technical and Engineering Dictionary by Louis DeVries defines Oppanol as "a synthetic substance resistant to mustard gas and lewisite.

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